

I am writing to you because I am not sure our state can do without the tax money from the tickets to the stadium games in Hartford (and Bridgeport.) From reading the bill, I understand it would make Hartford exempt from paying the tax collected from the sales of the tickets by diverting the tax money into a separate account used to repay Hartford for the cost of the expensive new stadium project. Usually, I would applaud the ingenuity of a proposal like this because it is pro-business. I do realize the stadium will bring great benefits to Hartford in the long run by boosting the local economy. I know this was the real reason for the project in the first place. But I also know you are all struggling mightily to form a budget without extremely short changing any one group while maintaining core services, etc. There are a lot of considerations on the table. More and more is being cut from the budget every time you form one. This is out of necessity because there isn't enough money to go around. There is even serious discussion about finding companies to pay for our state's new transportation project---privatizing the state's roadways in order to fix them when this is usually the government's responsibility. The state's needs are myriad and the financial situation seems to grow more dire with each passing year, making it impossible to fulfill those needs. So are you absolutely certain the state will not need the revenue from the ticket sales that would remain in the General Fund if this bill was not passed? Please note that there is no provision in the bill for the state to keep the tax money from tickets sold after the stadium project is repaid. Perhaps there should be a provision to enable the state to start getting that revenue afterward.

From Eve Sikora